Education
MANITOBA

Volume 1
Number 1
October 2002

Published by School Programs Division (Kindergarten to Senior 4) of Manitoba Education and Youth

K–S4 Education Agenda
A Message from the Minister

Welcome to the first issue of Education Manitoba. This newsletter is published by School Programs Division of the Department of Education and Youth to encourage a dialogue among all of us partners in education, and to provide stakeholders with up-to-date information on current activities, research, and what's happening in some schools.

In terms of providing up-to-date information, you may already be aware of the recent changes within the Department, including my own appointment as Minister of Education and Youth. Pat Rowantree has also been named Deputy Minister of Education and Youth and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Training, replacing Dr. Ben Levin who recently retired to return to the University of Manitoba. Ms. Rowantree has more than 30 years of public service, having worked as a teacher and administrator in the public and post-secondary education system. Most recently, she was Assistant Deputy Minister of Training and Continuing Education.

Despite these changes, the ongoing development of the K–S4 Education Agenda for Student Success continues to be a focus of the Department. Since July 2000, when Manitoba Education and Youth first mentioned the strategic priorities of the Agenda, hundreds of people have been involved in discussions and consultations towards the implementation of these priorities. Several regional consultations, two provincial conferences, and a number of planning workshops have been held to establish an ongoing dialogue on the Department's proposed initiatives.

From these consultations, six priority areas were selected, based on the following criteria. It was important that the areas would:

- make a difference in outcomes for students
- be consistent with the Department's goals
- build on existing activity in divisions and schools
- involve collaboration among educational partners
- be supported by research evidence

The areas selected as priorities build on the good work already being done in Manitoba schools. They are also areas that have the potential to make a significant difference for students, families, and communities.

The six priority areas are as follows:

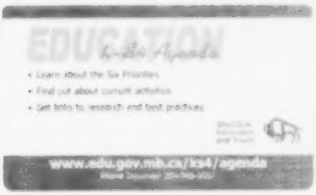
- Improve outcomes especially for less successful learners
- Strengthen links among schools, families, and communities
- Strengthen school planning and reporting
- Improve learning opportunities for educators
- Strengthen pathways among secondary schools, post-secondary education, and work
- Link policy and practice to research and evidence

The Department has an action plan on the six priorities that will be implemented in collaboration with our education partners.

For further information on the K–S4 Education Agenda, including information on how you can be involved, visit our website at: www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/agenda/

This effort towards collaboration and enhanced communication among educational stakeholders in Manitoba is the motivation for publishing Education Manitoba. I hope you find it to be a useful tool in your ongoing hard work for the children and families of Manitoba.

Honourable Ron Lemieux
Minister of Education and Youth


EDUCATION
K–S4 Agenda
• Learn about the Six Priorities
• Find out about current activities
• Get links to research and best practices
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/agenda

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Making Progress on the K–S4 Education Agenda for Student Success

Over the past year, the Manitoba Department of Education and Youth (MEY) has taken the six priorities identified in the K–S4 Agenda for Student Success and identified a total of 27 corresponding actions. As schools, school divisions/districts, and communities identify and pursue their own actions related to the K–S4 priorities (as deemed important for their jurisdictions), the work of all partners will merge to create an enhanced education system for all Manitobans.

Many of the Department's actions are well underway. Some require further research and/or consultation with education partners. While we cannot list all 27 actions in this newsletter, we can tell you about a few:

- In August 2002, MEY released *A Profile of Student Learning Outcomes in Manitoba*, an annual report on education achievement in Manitoba. A PDF version of the document is available at <www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k-s4/agenda/>.
- A document to help curriculum developers integrate Aboriginal perspectives into all curricula will be released in Fall 2002.
- Information that describes what students are learning in various grades and subjects will be available online for parents and the public starting in 2002-03.
- A template for reporting on school plans has been implemented for 2002-03.
- MEY is developing a new format for professional development. It has started small, on a web delivery model, and is holding focus groups to discuss alternative opportunities.
- MEY is reviewing types of portfolio development and expects to move towards province-wide resources and in-service sessions.
- MEY has plans to partner with educational stakeholders to strengthen capacity for collaborative research.

We welcome the input and support of all education partners in these actions. For a complete list of the 27 actions and their progress to date, please see the K–S4 Education Agenda website at <www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k-s4/agenda/>.

What's Happening With...

Interdisciplinary Middle Years Multimedia (IMYM)

The Interdisciplinary Middle Years Multimedia (IMYM) project originated as a curriculum-based, interdisciplinary research and development project designed to investigate and demonstrate information and communication technology (ICT) integration in the Middle Years classroom. Now an instructional model, IMYM continues to support learners and teachers. IMYM helps students to develop knowledge, ability, and responsibility in their use of ICT; and IMYM helps teachers to differentiate instruction, restructure classrooms to support collaborative learning, and to design constructivist learning environments. The IMYM model is currently being implemented in school divisions throughout the province, including Park West, Brandon, Mountain View, Evergreen, Elm Dale, Lord Selkirk, and Rolling River.

IMYM continues to support learners and teachers.

A Prairie Tour wins AMTEC Award of Excellence

On May 30, 2002, the Grade 5 IMYM project, *A Prairie Tour*, won the 2002 Award of Excellence from AMTEC (Association for Media and Technology in Education in Canada). AMTEC provides a national showcase for educational media that recognizes outstanding examples of educational television, film, multimedia, and computer software. A wide range of entries are judged within the five classifications of school system, post-secondary institution, government organization, commercial/industry agency, and student production.

The award for *A Prairie Tour* was announced and presented in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the 2002 AMTEC national conference. For more information on the AMTEC organization, visit <http://amtec2002.cshed.gov.sk.ca/media.html>.

Strategic Technology-Assisted Professional Learning Environment (STAPLE)

The Strategic Technology Assisted Professional Learning Environment (STAPLE) project will expand the range of professional learning opportunities available to Manitoba educators by researching, developing, and implementing models for technology-assisted professional development. STAPLE will be developed and implemented in three phases. In Phase 1: Action Research (January 2002–June 2003), the project team will develop, pilot, and report on a prototype model based on the implementation of the IMYM model (see page 2). In Phase 2: Development (July 2003–March 2004), the team will set guidelines and strategies for implementation of the revised professional learning model developed in Phase 2. This will act as a framework for the use of technology-assisted professional learning in other contexts. Phase 3: Implementation (April 2004–ongoing) will include continued consultation with curriculum specialists, schools, and school divisions to apply the professional learning model.

Curriculum Navigator

The Curriculum Navigator is a dynamic online teaching resource and planning tool. This resource allows educators to design learning experiences that integrate information technology using Manitoba specific learning outcomes from Kindergarten through Grade 8 in English language arts, mathematics, and science. As they are developed, new physical education/health education and social studies specific learning outcomes and instructional strategies, including instructional and assessment suggestions supporting the integration of ICT, will be integrated and/or added to existing learning experiences in the Curriculum Navigator.

The Curriculum Navigator is a dynamic online teaching resource...

Independent Study Option (ISO)

The Independent Study Option (ISO) provides opportunity and flexibility for high school age and adult learners to study a wide variety of print-based distance learning courses. Presently, ISO provides a full range of courses for students in Grades 10–12 as well as 7 print-based compulsory and optional courses for students in Senior 1 or 4. As an alternative to independent study, the Teacher Mediated Option provides an opportunity for school-based students to access print-based distance learning courses with teacher support through regularly scheduled individual conferences. Web-based courses are also available to school divisions, free of charge, on the Manitoba Education and Youth server.

Manitoba Grassroots Program

The Manitoba Grassroots Program is working to promote and facilitate the effective integration and use of information and communications technologies in Manitoba classrooms. Manitoba students from Kindergarten to Senior 4 gain essential ICT skills by developing meaningful projects on the Internet. Grassroots provides funding to schools for projects that are curriculum relevant, focus on learning activities carried out using the Internet, and culminate in the creation of a website.

For more information, please contact the Distance Learning and Information Technologies Unit (DLITU) at (204) 945-8465, email at dlitu@gov.mb.ca, or "Search by Area of Responsibility" on our Manitoba Education and Youth Contacts page at <http://www2.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/spdcontacts/>.

Distance Learning and Information Technologies Unit (DLITU)
<http://www2.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/spdcontacts/>

Curriculum Development and Implementation 2002-03 School Year

During the 2002-03 school year, several projects are underway to develop new curricula for the K–S4 English Program. Curriculum teams, comprising department consultants, curriculum writers, academic, and teachers from across the province, are working on the following development projects:

Curriculum Development 2002-03 (English Program)

Subject Area	Grade	Curriculum Document/Status
Physical Education/ Health Education	5–8 S1–S2	Foundation for Implementation (Fall 2002 release) Foundation for Implementation (begin development)
Social Studies	K–4 5–8	Manitoba Frameworks of Outcomes (Fall 2002/ Winter 2003)
	K–4	Foundation for Implementation (begin development)
	S2	Foundation for Implementation (begin development)
Science	S2	Science 20F Foundation for Implementation (enhance suggestions for differentiating instruction/assessment for Spring 2003 release—note: no change to learning outcomes in Framework of Outcomes 2001)
	S3–S4	Physics 30S Foundation for Implementation (Fall 2002/ electronic and print release) Physics 40S Foundation for Implementation (under development)
	S3	Current Topics in the Sciences 30S Foundation for Implementation (ongoing development/ field validation)
	S4	Integrated Science 40S (begin development)
	S3–S4	Biology 30S and 40S Foundation for Implementation (begin development)
Mathematics	S1	Mathematics 10F Foundation for Implementation (revisions to reflect 2001–02 adjustments to learning outcomes)
	S3	Consumer Mathematics 30S Foundation for Implementation (revision to reflect new *Essentials of Mathematics 11* text book—no change to learning outcomes)
Computer Science	S1–S4	Framework of Outcomes (begin development)
Technology Education	S1–S4	Industrial Arts Framework of Outcomes (begin development)
	S1–S4	Family Studies Framework of Outcomes (begin development)

continued on page 5

International Languages (Western Canadian Protocol projects)	K–S4	Ukrainian Language Arts Foundation for Implementation (continue development)
	K–S4	German Language Arts Framework of Outcomes (continue development)
	7–S4 S1–S4	Spanish Implementation documents (continue development)
Aboriginal Languages	TBA	Language Arts Foundation for Implementation TBA
The Arts	K–8	TBA
Psychology	S4	Framework of Outcomes (finalize for Spring 2003 release)

The following chart summarizes the schedule for implementation of curricula for compulsory subject areas in 2002-03.

Curriculum Implementation 2002-03 (English Program)

Curriculum	Grade	Status of Implementation—Compulsory Subject Areas
English Language Arts	K–S4	Province-wide implementation (1996–2000 curricula)
Mathematics	K–S4	Province-wide implementation (1995–2000 curricula)
Science	K–S1	Province-wide implementation (1998–2001 curricula)
	S2	Province-wide implementation of Science 20F begins. Science 20S/20G (1998) and Transitional Science 20S (1998 and all prior versions) are discontinued.
Physical Education/ Health Education	K–4	Voluntary implementation—year 2 (new integrated curriculum)
	5–8	Voluntary implementation—year 1 (new integrated curriculum)
	S1-S2	Continue use of existing curricula
Social Studies	K–S3	Continue use of existing curricula
The Arts (Music and Visual Art)	K–8	Continue use of existing curricula

For a listing of curricula for compulsory subject areas for 2002–03 and stock numbers for ordering from Manitoba Text Book Bureau, refer to: <www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12>.

School Programs Division will provide support for curriculum implementation and related professional learning during 2002–03. Consult the Year at a Glance (YAG) online Search and Registration System <https://www2.edu.gov.mb.ca/yag> for information about regional workshops to be offered. Sessions are planned for:

Early/Middle Years

- K–8 English Language Arts
- K–4 Physical Education/Health Education
- 5–8 Physical Education/Health Education
- K–8 Science

Senior Years

- S1–S2 Physical Education/Health Education Framework
- S1–S2 Science
- S1–S4 Mathematics

Within the limits of our resources, consultants also are available to respond to requests from schools/divisions for assistance with curriculum implementation professional learning initiatives.

Audio Books

Special Materials Service (SMS) has audio books to offer perceptually disabled students in K–S4. If you have perceptually disabled students who could benefit from using our educational library of audio books, please call 945-7842 for more information. You may also visit our website at <SMScat.merlin.mb.ca> to see our library holdings and order books with our improved online order forms. Special Materials Service is a unit within the School Programs Division of Manitoba Education and Youth.

Aboriginal Education Directorate

Tansi. Aanii. Boozhoo. Tanshi. Wotziye. Ho. Han.

We are pleased to announce the name change of the Native Education Directorate to the Aboriginal Education Directorate.

The Aboriginal Education Directorate operates from within both the Department of Education and Youth, and the Department of Advanced Education and Training. It has a solid mandate to ensure that Manitoba's education and training systems are responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people.

Successful achievement of this mandate is accomplished in the spirit of cooperation and consultation with many groups and individuals, such as educators, students, parents, Aboriginal organizations, and other government departments.

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/abedu/ned/about.html>.

Muhsi. Pidamayakiye. Marsee. Mahtua. Ekosi. Miigwetch.

UPDATE

Program and Policy Services Unit

Increasing Choice and Flexibility: Changes to the Senior Years Graduation Requirements

- The Challenge for Credit Option and Community Service Student-Initiated Project (SIP) initiatives are available for the 2002-2003 school year. Guidelines for both were mailed to schools in June 2002, along with a status report on the other initiatives.
- The Post-Secondary and Senior Years Credit (Dual Credits) initiative moves into its second year of implementation.

Support documents are being developed. These include:

- Integration of Aboriginal Perspectives into all curricula
- Multi-grade CD-ROM to assist teachers of multi-grade and multi-age classrooms
- Middle Years Technology Education: Industrial Arts and Home Economics
- A Parent Report on Graduation Requirements
- Annotated Bibliographies of Learning Resources:
  - German, Kindergarten to Senior 4
  - Physical Education/Health Education, Kindergarten to Grade 8
  - English Language Arts, Senior 3 and 4

Provincial Assessment Activities

Provincial assessment activities scheduled for the 2002-2003 school year include: the Grade 3 Assessment; optional standards testing in Grade 6 language arts and Senior 1 mathematics/mathématiques; mandatory standards testing in Senior 4 language arts and mathematics/mathématiques; and the administration of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). The May 2002 Provincial Standards Testing Schedule letter, which describes these assessment activities, can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/assess/publications.html>.

Survey of 1998 and 1999 Manitoba French Immersion Graduates

In January 2002, the Bureau de l'éducation française Division published the results of a survey conducted among Manitoba French Immersion graduates. The topics of the survey included French-language skills and use of French today, the French Immersion high school and its value, the transition from secondary school, and post-secondary studies. This article presents the highlights of the report.

The respondents assessed their current ability to perform activities such as reading a newspaper, writing a report, participating in an interview, and watching a movie in French. In general, they felt capable, to varying degrees, of performing the eleven activities listed.

Despite that fact, more than half (53%) of the respondents indicated that their second language ability had declined since the conclusion of their secondary studies. To counter this effect, some (40% take courses and others (25%) occasionally use French. It is encouraging to note that the vast majority (90%) of respondents said that continuing to use French is important or somewhat important with regard to their future plans.

Asked to rate their overall experience in secondary French Immersion, a good number (85%) of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied. With respect to possible improvements to the program, the most frequent suggestion was to give a greater presence to oral French and interaction.[1] According to the graduates, the most important outcome of a French Immersion education was being bilingual.

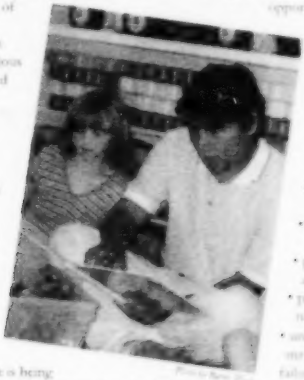
Approximately one fourth of the respondents said they had experienced certain difficulties in making the transition from courses taken in French to courses taken in English. This transition period was commonly said to have been stressful and gave students the opportunity to master a new vocabulary. Lastly, the rate of participation in post-secondary studies is high: more than three quarters (77%) of the respondents went on to post-secondary studies at the time they completed the survey.

Further information may be obtained from the report itself, and it is available on the Manitoba Education and Youth website at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/frpub/pol/sondage/index.html>.

> The respondents assessed their current ability to perform activities...

What Works In Our School and Community

Mrs. Lucci's Second Hand Store Inc. is a non-profit organization operating in the community of Lac du Bonnet and in partnership with Centennial School (Sunrise School Division). It is not just a second hand store, but also a classroom, office, and the home of the Winnipeg River Community Resource Center (WRCRC), which administers all of Mrs. Lucci's various programs. Mrs. Lucci's was initiated through a partnership between Centennial School, Public Health (North Eastman Health Association), and the Lac du Bonnet Chamber of Commerce: the school needed a place to teach practical living skills in a real-life setting, the Public Health Nurse had clients in need of affordable clothing and a place to go to feel a part of the community, and the Chamber of Commerce saw a need for a second hand store to draw cottagers into the community.



Depending on the program that is being offered, all members of the community are potential clients of Mrs. Lucci's/WRCRC, but most programs are targeted to at-risk clients. Clients have been and are referred by the schools, health service providers, Child and Family Services, community members, past clients, and self-referrals.

Programs include summer day camps, homework clubs, reading helpers, parenting and lobbusting courses, advocacy programs, and even craft and gem activities. Part of Mrs. Lucci's programming also focuses on encouraging and facilitating parents to volunteer in the classroom. This has worked to not only alleviate the fear and apprehension some parents have of teachers and educational institutions, but to actively involve parents in their children's education.

All programs and supports are individually focused, holistic in nature, and look to the Determinants of Health to ensure all aspects of health are addressed. These programs, opportunities, and services work in partnership to:

- ensure school-age children have the best possible resources, supports, and skills needed to succeed throughout life
- improve the education level of community members
- maximize the early childhood development of all children within the community
- create greater social support networks among community members
- improve the income and social status of community members
- improve personal health practices and coping skills among community members
- provide early intervention for at-risk families and individuals
- provide advocacy and referrals to clients in need of support
- assist similar rural organizations so that all may learn from each other's successes and failures.

People in the community generously donate all merchandise sold at Mrs. Lucci's. As a way to give back to the community, Mrs. Lucci's has initiated a Profit Sharing Program, whereby local service groups are given the opportunity to work at the store for six days within a two-week period and, in return, receive 50 percent of its profits for those weeks up to a maximum of $500. Between October 1998 and February 2002, Mrs. Lucci's has given back $45,472.74. By these initiatives, and by Mrs. Lucci's efforts to help children, youth, and parents develop a sense of connectedness to the community, that community has grown and will continue to grow stronger.

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ISSN 0704-2671

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The newsletter includes articles from the education community and from Education and Youth. Signed articles appearing in this magazine express the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Department.

Distribution

Education Manitoba is distributed free to schools in Manitoba. Additional copies of this issue (Stock #604413) may be purchased from the Manitoba Text Book Bureau, Box 910, Souris, Manitoba R0K 2C0, telephone (204) 483-4040 or toll-free (500) 305-5010. This newsletter can be viewed online at
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/newsletter/2002/01_2002.pdf>.
A similar document has been developed by the Bureau de l'éducation française Division for the Français and the French immersion programs.

Contact Information

We want to hear what you think about our newsletter. Include your name and phone number on all submissions. Please send comments, ideas, suggestions, and submissions in print and electronic formats to:

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